

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0049] with the following amended paragraph:

[0049] The hollow fiber 10 can be prepared by melt spinning, alternately called melt extrusion. In melt spinning a polymer granulate, for example of PMP, is fed to the hopper of an extruder. The polymer granulate is heated and melted in the extruder and continuously extruded to a spinning head under a pressure of several tens of bars. The spinning head consists of a heated in-line filter and spinneret. The spinneret is essentially a steel plate with thin arc shaped slots in circular arrangements. Examples of suitable slot arrangements for the formation of a hollow fiber are shown in Figures 2a to 2d. As shown in Figure 2e, the spinneret may have multiple groups of slots so that many fibers, 8 pairs in the spinneret shown, can be extruded simultaneously. The molten polymer is extruded through the spinneret, leaves the slots and closes into a hollow fiber in a cooling zone. The gaps caused by the segment dividers allow air into the fibre to prevent collapse before the fibre sections fuse to form the annulus. In the cooling zone, the polymer fiber form is solidified and cooled by a controlled cross flow of air and the end is collected on a take up winder. Suitable fibers 10 may also be formed by other melt spinning methods. For example, in pipe in hole spinning the polymer is melted and drawn through an annular spinneret while passing a gas into the lumen of the extruded fibers through another hole in the spinneret to prevent fiber collapse. Methods other than melt spinning may also be used.